

the

KALIFORNSKI

Since 1979

NEWSLETTER OF THE SLAVIC-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

P.O. Box 226, Watsonville, California 95077

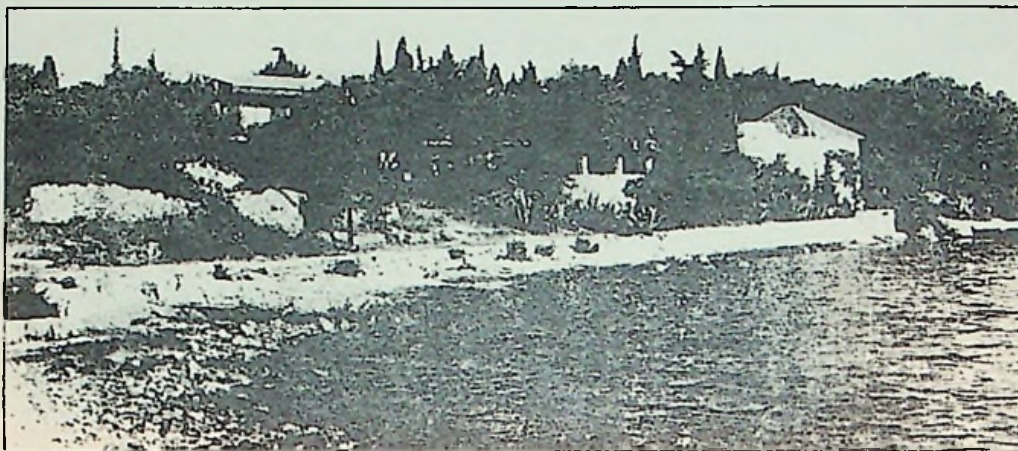
(A NON-PROFIT, NON-RELIGIOUS, & NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION)

No. 160 Aug. - Sept. 1996

EDITORS: Dale Skillicorn and Janet (Pelich) Justus-Skillicorn

Contact at Rapid Offset Printing, 22 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville, California 95076

(408) 724-2900



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SOLTA - THE SOLITARY ISLAND

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Rogač has remained as it has always been — a shelter for barks and the port of Grohot, the largest Solta settlement. From their savings the native seamen recently built a number of nice houses and tourists like to visit this small place. Another novelty is the newly constructed asphalt road from Rogač to Grohot as well as from Gornje Selo to Stomorska. This has only partly solved the greatest desire of the Soltans to have an asphalt road from end to end. Their wishes also include a water supply system and better communications with Split. »Without them there is no life, no tourism«, the Soltans told us. They could indeed extend the tourists something that many other islands lack — unadulterated nature and idyllic peace. Although modest in proportions, a few localities on Solta are ascending the tourist stage, particularly Stomorska and Nečujam, and even Maslinica. The Marko Marulić Hotel in Nečujam

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TRANSLATED BY ANTE NOVAK

(Matica - '78)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank all the members who worked so hard to make our July Bar-B-Q a success:

Lena Derpich arriving at five thirty A.M. to cook her very delicious macaroni.

Jack Osorio, who has been the work horse every year, arriving at eight thirty every morning for the last seventeen years to take over the setting up, and taking down the tables, plus cleaning up the area, along with his crew of Tony Colendich, Harold and Mark Ferris.

The ladies in charge of the dinner, bar and raffle tickets: Nina Matulich, Jacqueline Zadravec, Helen Ukestad, June Zupan, Ann Backovich and Betty Jones.

Also Frank Zadravec and John Smoljan working at the serving table cutting all the meat. Quite a job!

Babe Hill for calling all over Northern California to try and get some music. Lena Derpich got a phone number for the group we had. I know there were some good and bad remarks about the music, but you can't please everyone.

And a special thanks to Ann Soldo for chairing the Scholarship Awards again. Sorry we didn't have a microphone so you could have introduced the winners.

Thank you one and all.

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Andy and Pat Gulermovich, owners

Potpourri

by Babe Brautovich Hill

Did you have a good time at the July picnic??? I thought it was just great. The music was about the best you can get. If you didn't think so, then you ought to try getting good music that would come this far away for that amount of money. With all my heart and soul. Thanks to the Mike Donlagic Trio. As some said, they played in the troubador fashion. It was so romantic and it seemed they were playing just for you. So thanks again to Mike on the accordion, Jovani on the violin and Richard on the guitar. If you need to get a hold of them, call me, OK?? ... Ron's Boston Fern went over well again this year. Jan Kowalkowski won it this year. I'm not sure who won it last year but he says he will do it again next year. Thanks, Ron ... The meat was done to a turn. The only way it could have been better would be if it had been chicken. I guess you can tell that I'm a chicken lover. I think the Kentucky Colonel and I were related. ... Lena Derpic will be on again Sept. 15 at the Senior Center and you'd better be there. Remember last year??? Well, it's chicken and macaroni time again. (My favorite time of the S.A.C.O. year.) Come one and all, and bring a friend. The next biggie will be our CHRISTMAS DINNER on Dec. 15 at the Senior Center. More on that later. See you in Sept. ...

RAPID OFFSET PRINTING



• 22 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076 •

OLYMPICS (anyone???)

I'm proud to be an American
Where at last I know I'm free.
And I won't forget the men who died
Who gave that right to me.
And I'd gladly stand up next to you
And defend her still today.
Cause there aint no doubt I love this land.
GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

Toodloo ...

Babe

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you have helped broaden my horizons!
I feel it is a great honor to be recognized
for my background and heritage, because
it helps keep the pride for my ancestors alive
in my heart.

With your help I am now closer to the
accomplishment of my dreams.

You have given me inspiration and for this
I express my sincere gratitude. Anna Vioche

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jim and Catherine Moresco
(Watsonville)

Steve and Karen Belick
(Aptos)

Please allow me a moment to thank you for the scholarship
in the amount of \$250.00. I am honored to receive this
award from SACO.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you in person at
the SACO barbecue in July.

HVALA,

Brian Kulich

Brian Kulich
Aptos High School

I would like to thank you and SACO
for giving me this generous scholarship. I truly
appreciate it and will use it wisely. I am
very proud of my heritage, so this scholarship,
in particular, means a lot to me. I hope
that you will continue to support students
at Watsonville High School. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
David
Deryish

I would like to thank you for your generous donation
that I have received in the form of a scholarship. I
am so very grateful, not only because the money will
help further my education at the University of Southern
California, where I will major in Political Science, but
because it is in recognition for all that I have accom-
plished, which makes it all the more meaningful. Thank
you so very much! This special award holds special mean-
ing to me because it stems also from my nationality
which is very important to me and is something I
cherish. Thank you again for awarding me with a
Hispanic American Cultural Organization Scholarship!
It is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Moresco



CHICKEN BAR-B-QUE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

Watsonville Senior Center
114 East Fifth Street

3:00 p.m. - Social and "Get Acquainted" Hour

4:00 p.m. - Dinner

\$10.00

Please MAIL reservations and make check payable to:
S.A.C.O.

P.O. Box 226
Watsonville, CA 95077

**Checks must be received by SEPT. 9th.
NO TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR.**



IN MEMORIAM

JOHN M. SELAK
June 26, 1996 - 84 years.
In Watsonville

STELLA M. LUCICH
August 9, 1996 - 87 years.
In Watsonville

OUR CONDOLENCES TO

Lucy Selak and family
and the family of Stella Lucich

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship recipients of
\$25.00 each from S.A.C.O.:

DAVID DERPICH
(Watsonville High)
Son of Pete and Emilia Derpich

BRIAN KULICH
(Aptos High)
Son of Stephen and Stephanie Kulich.
Grandson of Mary Kulich

MIA MORESCO
(Watsonville High)
Daughter of Jim and Jane Moresco
Granddaughter of Jim and Cathy Moresco

ANNA VIOLICH
(Aptos High)
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Violich
Granddaughter of Francis Violich

THANK YOU!!!

To everyone who brought a cake
to our July 7th Bar-B-Que,
I sincerely thank you.

Kina Mafuchich

GET WELL WISHES TO:

John and Dollie Antich
and
Mary Cimmarusti

If you are already a member,
give this to a friend:

JOIN US TODAY

SACO was established in 1979 as a non-profit club without political or religious ties for the sole purpose of bringing together interested persons to make known and to preserve our Slavic heritage.

A year-round series of programs and events has proven an enjoyable way for SACO to provide its focus on Slavic heritage. Such activities include picnics, lectures and slide presentations on our historic culture, plus potluck and sitdown dinners. We also publish a bi-monthly newsletter, THE KALIFORNSKI, full of interesting articles, recipes, and news of our area's Slavic community.

Our meetings may include a potluck, special dinner, films, dancing, and raffles, plus we hold an annual July barbeque.

Won't you accept our invitation to join us? We're sure you'll soon find SACO to be one of your favorite clubs.

Our dues are as follows:

Single membership \$12
Family membership \$18

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Birth date: _____
Husband: _____
Wife: _____
Address: _____
Phone number: _____
Interests: _____

Slavic Background: _____

ATTENTION:

THE KALIFORNSKI is your publication. If there is anything in particular that you would like to see in any future issues, please don't hesitate to contact us. If you have any subjects relating to Slavic heritage or about Slavs, here or abroad, that you would like to share or see published in this newsletter, please let us know. We would appreciate your input in publishing this newsletter each month. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us:

Dale Skillicorn and
Janet (Pelich) Justus-Skillicorn
c/o Rapid Offset Printing
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SUGGESTED TOPICS:

1. Trips by SACO members
2. Visitors from the Old Country
3. Newspaper or magazine articles about Slavs, local or abroad
4. Weddings, anniversaries, graduations, birth announcements, or special celebrations by SACO members
5. Civic or cultural contributions by Slavs
6. Slavic recipes
7. Slavic songs, poetry or stories
8. Special family traditions for holidays, etc.
9. Slavic stories for children
10. Anything you think might be of interest to SACO members

NEW DEADLINE

A new DEADLINE has been set for the 10th of the month prior to publication. Issues will be published for April/May, June/July, August/September, October/November, December/January and February/March. If I don't have the information in time, I will not be able to publish it until the next issue.

POTTERY IN SLOVENIA

BY ANDREJA PEKLAJ

(Revue - '78)

The potter's craft has a long tradition in the village of Filovci (Republic of Slovenia), as can be judged by the old saying: "Everybody in Filovci makes pots except the village elder — he makes jugs."

At the end of the last century, 90 potters were at work in the village and had their own guild organization. Since the Second World War, however, their number has rapidly declined: ten years ago there were still about 40, but today there are only four left. All of them are old men and have no one to follow in their footsteps, since the young people prefer to leave the village and find jobs in industry. The hard work and rather unhealthy working conditions of the potter's occupation cannot compete with the attractions of town life and modern factory conditions. And so pottery, like many other traditional crafts, is dying a lingering death, and the potters' products will soon be cherished as exhibits for ethnographic museums.

The oldest written record concerning potters in Slovenia dates from 1340. Guild records about this craft are very plentiful, particularly from the 16th century.

Originating in rural areas, to supply the needs of villagers, the craft of pottery was later taken up by urban artisans, when the towns began to develop. The latter developed it technically, giving their products greater variety of form and better finish. These innovations were subsequently adopted also by craftsmen in the villages, to which this craft began to return at the end of the 18th century. At this time the potters' guild organizations started to disintegrate since earthenware vessels no longer satisfied the requirements of town dwellers. Even in the villages earthenware pottery began to go out of fashion. As early as 1894, a factory producing enamelware kitchen utensils was opened in the Slovenian town of Celje. Pottery survived for the most part as a rural handcraft.

The pottery centres were always located near deposits of good clay, as in the valley of the River Mura. The numerous workshops in this area had as many as five assistants and apprentices besides the master craftsman himself, who was mostly engaged in selling rather than producing. It was very hard for an assistant to acquire the status of master craftsman, unless the workshop was owned by his family. The setting up of a pottery kiln was very expensive,



When the oven is filled with unbaked pottery, the kiln is well stoked and lighted.

Thatched cottages in the village of Filovci.

Skill and concentration are needed to mould clay into the desired shape.

It is most important to fire the pottery properly. A lot of experience is required for this job, as every inch of space in the oven must be utilized.

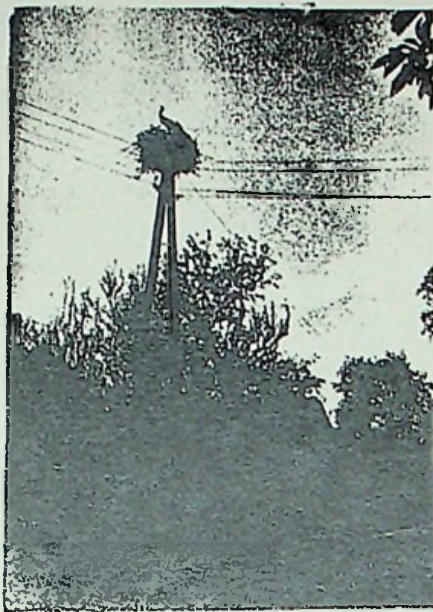
PHOTOS BY A. PEKLAJ

too expensive for every potter to have his own, so that one kiln was often used by several of them.

To fill a kiln, a potter must dig one cubic metre of clay, and then grind it in a mill (now electrically powered). Then he damps it and cuts it up, kneading it well with the hands before he shapes it on the wheel, turned by foot. The vessel is usually decorated with wavy and straight lines made with a small comb-like board, to which dots, circles, rosettes and leaves are later added. The main products of the potters are cooking utensils, bowls, baking dishes, and vases of various shapes and sizes.

The vessels are first dried out in the sun or house, arranged on shelves, and then placed in the kiln. This is domeshaped, and located in the garden or a special building, outside the house. At the very bottom of the kiln there are three openings where pine logs full of resin are burnt. The openings are then sealed with bricks and clayey earth. The smoke which is confined to the kiln gives the pottery a uniform grey-black, graphite colour. The temperature in the kiln reaches 1,000 degrees Centigrade. The firing and cooling time is from ten to twelve hours.

A potter turns out about 10,000 vessels a year. These are sold to various commercial organizations, with which he has a contract, but he also sells some personally at the fairs in nearby villages and towns.



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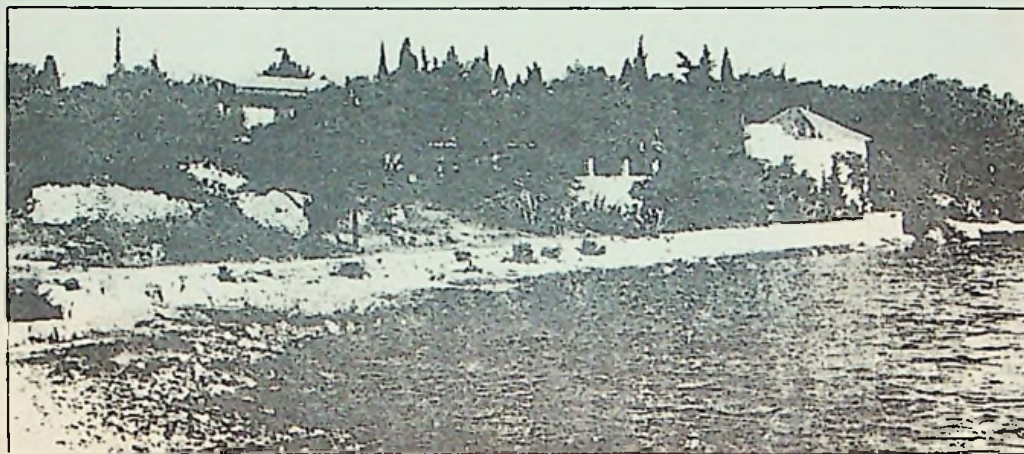
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